

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 ARA-06 DPW-01

DHA-02 ORM-02 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 NEA-10 EA-07 /128 W

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2324

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2726

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 11152

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EA, VN, EEC

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION SRV OFFICIALS HOLD INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 10721, (B) EC BRUSSELS 10626, (C) EC
BRUSSELS A-456

1. SUMMARY: A SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM (SRV) DELEGATION
MET WITH EC COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH RECENTLY
MAINLY TO REQUEST EC FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US THAT GENELACH INDICATED THE
EC WAS NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE ANY MAJOR ASSISTANCE BUT
IT WOULD PROVIDE SOME FOOD AID AND INITIATE TRADE MEASURES. THE
EC MIGHT ALSO HELP EXPAND SRV TRADE. NO MENTION WAS MADE OF
ESTABLISHING EC SRV DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BUT THE DRV WANTS
TO CONTINUE INFORMAL DISCUSSION. END SUMMARY.

2. A DELEGATION OF SRV OFFICIALS MET WITH EC COMMISSIONER
GUNDELACH ON NOVEMBER 8 IN BRUSSELS. THE MAIN SRV PARTICI-
PANTS WERE VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, NHUYEN CO TAACH;
DIRECTOR AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, MAI VAN BO; AND SRV AMBASSADOR
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TO FRANCE, VO VAN SUNG. COMMISSION OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED

IN THE MEETING SAY THE SRV REQUESTED THE MEETING AND THEIR MAIN PURPOSE WAS TO SEEK EC FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR THE SRV FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. GUNDELACH REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THE EC DID NOT HAVE SUBSTANTIAL AID FUNDS FOR SUCH A PURPOSE. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE VIETNAMESE APPROACH THE MEMBER STATES FOR SUCH ASSISTANCE. GUNDELACH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMISSION WAS PROPOSING A 25,000 MT 1977 CEREAL FOOD AID PROGRAM FOR THE SRV (SEE REF B) AND WOULD BE PREPARED INFORMALLY TO APPLY THE GSP TO SRV EXPORTS (SEE REF A). THE VIETNAMESE INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD LOOK INTO SENDING NEW CUSTOM CERTIFICATES TO THE EC SO THAT THE EC COULD TAKE SUCH ACTION. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ADD THAT IF THE SRV HAD REQUESTED IT, THEY WERE PREPARED TO INCLUDE THE SRV IN THE COMMISSION PROPOSED LIST OF LDCS WHICH WOULD BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE GSP NEXT YEAR.

3. NEITHER THE VIETNAMESE NOR THE COMMISSION MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. SRV OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, ASKED THE EC TO SEND INFORMATION ON EC ACTIVITIES TO THEIR EMBASSY IN PARIS AND TO CONTINUE REGULAR INFORMAL CONTACTS. COMMISSION OFFICIALS AGREED TO THESE REQUESTS. THEY NOTE THAT THIS AMOUNTS TO DE FACTO RECOGNITION. THEY DID NOT EXPECT A FORMAL SRV REQUEST FOR RECOGNITION AT THIS TIME, BECAUSE OF EAST EUROPEAN OPPOSITION TO IT.

4. THE VIETNAMESE ALSO DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS, EMPHASIZING THEIR NEED FOR FOREIGN PRIVATE INVESTMENT AND AN EXPANSION IN EXPORTS. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THAT THEY MADE NO COMMITMENTS TO ASSIST THE SRV BUT THEY PLAN TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE EC EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAM FOR LDCS TO ASSIST THE SRV (SEE EC BRUSSELS 10999).

5. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY PRIOR TO THE MEETING THE DRV HAD REQUESTED 225,000 MT OF CEREAL FOOD AID AS WELL AS OTHER FOODSTUFFS. SRV OFFICIALS, NEVERTHELESS, CONFIDENTIAL

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SEEM TO BE PLEASED WITH THE EC PROPOSED PROGRAM. THE COMMISSION INDICATED THAT THEY ALSO PLANNED TO PROVIDE BUTTEROIL AND SKIMMED POWDER MILK TO THE SRV.

6. COMMISSION OFFICIALS SAY THE ISSUE OF EXTENDING QUOTA-FREE TRADE PREVIOUSLY OFFERED TO THE SOUTH TO THE WHOLE COUNTRY WAS NOT DISCUSSED (SEE REF A). THIS PROPOSAL CONTINUES TO BE DISCUSSED BY MEMBER STATE

EXPERTS WHO GENERALLY ARE INCLINED TO SUPPORT IT.
THE EC COUNCIL, HOWEVER, WILL LIKELY HAVE TO APPROVE
IT.

7. COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS
OF THIS INITIAL HIGH LEVEL CONTACT. THEY BELIEVE THE
BASIS FOR AN INFORMAL WORKING RELATIONSHIP HAS BEEN
ESTABLISHED. THEY OBVIOUSLY WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE
SRV RELATIONS WITH THE EC AND WITHIN ITS LIMITED RE-
SOURCES, THE EC WILL LIKELY RESPOND TO SRV REQUESTS.
THESE OFFICIALS ADD THAT SRV DELEGATIONS HAVE ALREADY
OR ARE PLANNING TO MAKE SIMILAR APPEALS FOR FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE TO NEARLY ALL THE MEMBER STATES. HINTON

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